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-- REMARKS --

In the Final Office Action, Examiner Nguyen (1) rejected pending claims 1-5, 10-17, 19, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,724,062 to *Hunter* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,951 to *Sakaguchi et al.*, and (2) rejected pending claims 6-8, 18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,724,062 to *Hunter* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,951 to *Sakaguchi et al.* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,783,909 to *Hochstein*. The Applicant has cancelled pending claims 1-24 herein without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter of pending claims 1-24. Withdrawal of the aforementioned obviousness rejections of claims 1-24 are therefore respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 25 is allowable over the art of record, because the art of record, alone or in combination, fails to disclose, teach or suggest the following limitations of independent claim 25:

1. "a first sub-array controller for controlling an operation of said first switch in the first ON state";
2. "a second sub-array controller for controlling an operation of said second switch in the second ON state"; and
3. "wherein said first sub-array controller controls the operation of said first sub-array switch in the first ON state and said second sub-array controller controls the operation of said second sub-array switch in the second ON state in a mutually exclusive manner".

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In particular, as illustrated in FIGS. 1, 4, 13, 15 and 24, *Sakaguchi* teaches a single backlight driver 8 for controlling an operation an array of RGB LEDs. In paragraph 3 of the Final Office Action, Examiner Nguyen asserts that *Sakaguchi* suggests backlight driver 8 includes an individual controller for each color LED array. The Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner Nguyen's assertion, because *Sakaguchi* unequivocally suggests a single controller for the entire LED array. Specifically, *Sakaguchi*'s objective to provide a low cost LCD having the capability to sequentially activate a plurality of backlight sections in coordination with the writing of data to a plurality of areas of a LCD array. See, *Sakaguchi* at column 1, line 50 to column 3, line 62. Clearly, an implementation of a controller for each color LED array and a synchronization of the sequential operation of the controllers in sequentially activating a plurality of backlight sections in coordination with the writing of data to a plurality of areas of a LCD array is more complex and costly than an implementation of a single controller for the entire LED array, and therefore supports a suggestion by *Sakaguchi* that backlight driver 8 is implemented as a single controller.

Moreover, any synchronization of the sequential operation of multiple controllers in sequentially activating backlight sections in coordination with the writing of data to LCD array areas in accordance with *Sakaguchi* indicates the controllers would sequentially activate the backlight sections in a "mutually dependent" manner as opposed to a "mutually exclusive" manner.

An allowance over the art of record of independent claim 25 and claims 26-44 depending from independent claim 25 is therefore respectfully requested

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SUMMARY

Examiner Nguyen's obviousness rejections of claims 1-24 has been obviated by the cancellation herein of claims 1-24. The Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 25-44 as added herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Nguyen is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

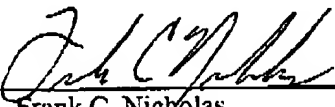
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Respectfully submitted,
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